



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

18 OCTOBER 2017

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Sacramento – Raids on Marijuana Grow Houses Often Find Chinese ‘Farmers’ Inside

(U) Recent police raids in Yuba, Yolo, Placer and Sacramento counties have resulted in multiple arrests of people with Chinese passports, some of them speaking no English and providing little help to investigators. The occupants of these grow houses have turned out to be Chinese nationals, raising questions about who is recruiting them and financing their operations. One recent indictment obtained by McClatchy asserts that money from a southern China bank account was transferred to California to pay for down payments on homes that later became grow houses, suggesting that at least some in China are investing the illicit US marijuana market.

SOURCE: 17 October 2017, [Sacramento Bee](#)

(U) San Diego – Bomb-Arson Team Investigating Explosion in City Heights

(U) An explosion in front of a City Heights apartment complex early yesterday ignited several small bushes and damaged a parked car and a fence. Investigators determined the low-explosive device was not sophisticated and there was not much left of it by the time they arrived. Authorities believe it could have been a pyrotechnic. Someone called 911 a little before 7 a.m. to report hearing a loud explosion and saw something burning in the street.

SOURCE: 17 October 2017, [San Diego Union-Tribune](#)

(U) San Diego – Death Toll from Hepatitis A Outbreak Rises to 19; More Than 500 Cases Confirmed

(U) San Diego’s hepatitis A outbreak added another death yesterday, pushing the total to 19 as the number of confirmed cases passed 500. Updated numbers released by the county Health and Human Services Agency come as a massive effort around vaccination, sanitation and public education continues to try and stop the largest surge of the viral disease since the vaccine for hepatitis A was approved in the late 1990s.

SOURCE: 17 October 2017, [LA Times](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – US Indicts Major Chinese Traffickers for Selling Fentanyl Online

(U) Washington – The US Department of Justice has indicted two major Chinese drug traffickers on charges of making illegal versions of fentanyl and selling the highly addictive drug to Americans over the internet and through international mail. Xiaobing Yan, 40, and Jian Zhang, 38, who are both in China and have not been taken into US custody, were charged with conspiring to distribute large quantities of fentanyl and fentanyl analogues into the United States.

SOURCE: 17 October 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) Massachusetts – Jurors to Resume Deliberations in Beheading Plot Trial

(U) Boston – Jurors are set to resume deliberation in the case of a man accused of plotting to behead conservative blogger Pamela Geller on behalf of ISIS. Prosecutors say David Wright was the ringleader of a plot to kill Geller, who organized a Prophet Muhammad cartoon contest in Texas. The plot was never

carried out, and prosecutors say Wright also wanted to commit other attacks in the US. The 28-year-old could face up to life in prison if convicted of conspiring to commit acts of terrorism transcending national boundaries.

SOURCE: 17 October 2017, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Maryland – Former University of Maryland Student Indicted on Hate Crime Charge in Stabbing

(U) Severna Park – A grand jury yesterday indicted a white former University of Maryland college student on a hate crime charge in the stabbing death of a black US Army lieutenant. Sean Christopher Urbanski, 22, is accused of killing Richard Collins III in the predawn hours of 20 May at a campus bus stop. Urbanski was a member of a Facebook group called “Alt-Reich,” which spews racial rhetoric toward minorities and especially African-Americans, according to police.

SOURCE: 17 October 2017, [CNN](#)

(U) Texas – 8 Men Arrested on Charges They Trafficked Children for Sex in Dallas-Fort Worth Area

(U) Dallas – Eight men are in custody after federal authorities say they trafficked children for sex at hotels across the Dallas-Fort Worth area. In March, Fort Worth police tracked one juvenile victim to a hotel after responding to a Backpage.com ad. When they rescued the girl, they found two other girls hiding in a closet. Authorities allege that the eight men “recruited, advertised and sold” the victims, among other women and girls.

SOURCE: 17 October 2017, [Dallas Morning News](#)

(U) Texas – 3 Arrested in Fort Worth While Trying to Grab \$20,000 in Mexican Kidnapping Plot

(U) Fort Worth – Three men were arrested in Fort Worth last week while authorities say they were picking up ransom money from a North Texas man they were helping to extort. The victim said that on 22 September he began receiving threatening calls from an unknown Mexican number. The caller said the man’s two brothers had been kidnapped in Mexico and demanded \$300,000 in ransom. The caller threatened to kill the brother without payment. Callers later told the victim they worked with the Jalisco drug cartel and Mexican police.

SOURCE: 17 October 2017, [Dallas Morning News](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) United Kingdom – MI5 Chief Warns of ‘Intense’ Terrorism Threat

(U) London – MI5 Chief Andrew Parker is claiming that there is currently “more terrorist activity coming at us, more quickly” and that it can also be “harder to detect.” The UK has had five terrorist attacks this year. There are more than 500 live operations involving 3,000 individuals involved in extremist activity in some way, according to Parker. Twenty attacks have been foiled in the last four years, including seven in the last seven months.

SOURCE: 17 October 2017, [BBC](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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